

MEDFORD RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE, OREGON ROOMS
AUGUST 12, 2004, 10 a.m.

The objectives of the Committee are to improve collaboration relationships between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and local communities, and provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) or the Secretary's designee (s) consistent with the provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Act) of 2000, P.L. 106-393.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Category 1

Gene Bowling
Rauno Perttu
David Hill
Daniel Ratty (until 1 p.m.)
Charles Bruce, Alternate

Category 2

Phillip Lang
Vernon Pew
Jack Shipley
Richard Smith
David Strahan
Howard Heiner, Alternate
Jeffrey Hanson, Alternate

Category 3

Sue Kupillas
Jim Kolen
Walter Fence
Scott Richardson

A quorum for each category was present.

BLM EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Tim Reuwsaat, Bill Freeland, Karen Gillespie, Wedge Watkins, Joan Resnick, Sherwood Tubman, Bob Bessey, Loren Wittenberg, Lance Nimmo, John Prendergast, Kristi Mastrofini, Abbie Jossie, Sheryl Langhofer.

WELCOME!

Tim Reuwsaat
Designated Federal Official
Medford District Manager

Sue Kupillas
Medford RAC Chairperson
Jackson County Commissioner

Tim Reuwsaat welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their hard work. He said that he appreciated their willingness to volunteer their time and added that they had an important, and difficult, job determining how to spend the RAC money. Sue Kupillas thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them back for another year.

RE-INTRODUCTIONS – Sue Kupillas

All of the RAC members introduced themselves and told what segment they were representing on the committee. All BLM employees introduced themselves.

Sue asked that members select a chairperson for the day. It was moved and seconded that Sue act as Chairperson. Motion passed.

MEETING GUIDELINES, PROCESS - Karen Gillespie, Facilitator

Karen Gillespie reviewed the RAC meeting guidelines that had been agreed upon at the first RAC meeting three years ago.

REVIEW/APPROVE MEETING MINUTES - Sue Kupillas

Both the August 11, 2003 and the August 14, 2003 RAC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

UPDATE ON PAST PROJECTS - Bill Freeland, Program Coordinator, Medford District

Bill Freeland reported that in the packet that had been provided to each RAC member was a list of past and current projects and a synopsis of funds spent on Title II projects over the last several years.

KLAMATH COUNTY PROJECTS

Wedge Watkins, Klamath Falls Resource Area (RA) representative, reviewed two Title II proposals, both proposed by the BLM Klamath Falls Office. There were no public submissions in Klamath County this year.

Questions and discussion concerning these proposals followed.

RAC Vote:

The committee voted to accept the projects as presented with the caveat that on the Noxious Weed Treatment project, Wedge will correct the acreage on the original submission form and that the BLM will emphasize contract administration with the contractor that is hired to complete this project. The attached table shows the projects approved for Klamath County Title II funds.

MUTI-COUNTY PROJECTS

Bill Freeland, RAC Program Coordinator in the Medford District, gave a brief overview of the Multi-County projects. The project description for the Medford Air Tanker Base, the District Native Seed Collection Project and the Youth to Work program were discussed. The Cold Springs CCC Camp Project (Cold Springs Recreation Area Phase 1) will be discussed by the Glendale RA within the respective county project list. The decision on each project will be done within the individual county vote.

CURRY AND DOUGLAS COUNTY PROJECTS

Joan Resnick, Acting Field Manager of the Glendale RA, gave an overview of the proposed BLM, Multi-County and the publicly submitted Curry and Douglas County projects.

Questions and discussion concerning these proposals followed.

Public Comment:

Sandy Shaffer asked if the Douglas County “Noxious Weed Removal and Management” Project funds included any funding for outreach. Sherwood Tubman, Eco-system Planner in the Glendale RA, stated that the funds do not include anything for public outreach. Sandy also asked if the “South Douglas Co. Wildlife Water Availability” Project was truly for “wildlife” or if that should read “wildfire”. Sherwood responded that it should indeed read Southern Douglas County Wildfire Water Availability.” A correction was made to the project list.

RAC Vote:

The two counties were voted upon individually. The committee voted to accept the projects and funding as determined for Curry County during the question and discussion period. After further discussion and several changes, the committee voted to accept the projects and funding as re-examined for Douglas County. At this point, the RAC members decided to revisit the Curry County Projects before the block vote at the conclusion of the meeting.

The attached table reflects the projects approved for Curry County and Douglas County Title II funds. In Curry County, three projects were approved at full funding, three projects were funded at a reduced level and one project was not funded. In Douglas County, eight projects were approved at full funding, three were funded at a reduced level and two projects were not funded.

During the lunch break, Tim Reuwsaat thanked the RAC members for the time and effort that they had volunteered participating in the RAC. He awarded each RAC member with their choice of a BLM shirt, a BLM insulated lunch bag or a BLM duffle bag.

JACKSON COUNTY PROJECTS

John Prendergast, Acting Field Manager of the Ashland RA, introduced Kristi Mastrofini, Lead Planner in Ashland RA. Kristi gave an overview of the proposed BLM, Multi-County and the publicly submitted Jackson County projects.

Questions and discussion concerning these proposals followed.

Public Comment:

Executive Director of Lomakatsi, Oshana Catranides, spoke in favor of the Wagner Creek Fuels Reduction Project. Lomakatsi Restoration Project (the organization) has been in Ashland for ten years. She stated that the Wagner Creek project would treat approximately 75 acres with approximately 30 landowners, all of whom supported the project. The project design would treat the area 30-50 feet on both sides of roads and the defensible space around each home. She added that the home owners had not been asked about sharing the cost, but that Lomakatsi was willing to pursue that avenue if asked to by the RAC.

Sandy Shaffer of the Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District #9 spoke in favor of the Rural Fire District #9 Defensible Space Project. She said that through past grants, 10% of the homes in the Applegate Valley have been documented as having completed defensible space work. Another 10% are

in the process of using their own funds to complete defensible space work. The work that has already been done helped with fire suppression on the Squires Fire in July, 2002. She stated that if this funding was approved, it would allow for an additional 100 homes to be treated next year.

RAC Vote:

The attached table reflects the projects approved for Jackson County Title II funds. It was noted that the RAC supported the Wagner Creek Fuels Reduction Project at approximately 75% because they would like to see a cost-sharing arrangement with the property owners. Eight projects were fully funded, nine projects were funded at a reduced level and eleven projects were not funded.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY PROJECTS

Abbie Jossie, Grants Pass Field Manager, gave an overview of the proposed BLM, Multi-County and the publicly submitted Josephine County projects.

Questions and discussion concerning these proposals followed.

Public Comment:

Susan Chapp, of the Forestry Action Committee, spoke in support of both the Illinois Valley Noxious Weed Control and the Integrated Woodland Management Projects. She said that the crew that has been hired to complete the weed control is very efficient. She also mentioned that the area often has volunteers that assist with any weed control projects.

RAC Vote:

The attached table reflects the projects approved for Josephine County Title II funds. Twenty-one projects were fully funded, one project was funded at a reduced level and eleven projects were not funded.

FINAL BLOCK VOTE ON 2005 PROJECTS - Sue Kupillas

The group revisited the list of Curry County projects and after changing their allocations, approved the list as changed. The attached table reflects the projects approved for Curry County Title II funds (see above).

It was moved and seconded that all projects and allocations be accepted as voted on. The motion passed unanimously.

WRAP-UP - Sue Kupillas

Sue again thanked all of the RAC members for their time. She said that she felt that as a group they had accomplished a great deal working together; she added that she had enjoyed working with each one of them.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.